

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: EA/IMS:WSHEPARD:JNP

APPROVED BY: EA:PCHABIB

M:LEAGLEBURGER

S/S-O:JHOGANSON

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Z 041020Z AUG 75 ZFF6

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR FLASH

AMEMBASSY TOKYO FLASH

USDEL SECRETARY FLASH

INFO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM FLASH

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 183138 TOSEC 080348

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS,MY

SUBJECT: TERRORIST ATTACK IN KUALA LUMPUR

REF ; STATE L83129; TOSEC 341

1. JAPANESE EMBASSY COUNSELOR DONOWAKI CALLED HABIB TO INFORM US THAT AMBASSADOR SUMA HAS NOW RETURNED TO KUALA LUMPUR FROM SINGAPORE AND HAS MET WITH MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER RAZAK.

2. RAZAK SAID THAT THIS WAS FIRST TIME THAT THE GOM HAD BEEN FACED WITH TERRORISM PROBLEM. THEREFORE, HE ASKED AMBASSADOR SUMA FOR ADVICE OF GOJ, WHICH IS QUOTE MORE EXPERIENCED UNQUOTE IN THESE MATTERS. SUMA SAID THAT HE HAD RECEIVED NO INSTRUCTIONS, AND SINCE THE INCIDENT WAS TAKING PLACE IN MALAYSIA, IT WAS UP TO THE GOM TO HANDLE THE MATTER. DONOWAKI ADDED THAT DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA IS HOLDING A CABINET
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MEETING ON THIS SUBJECT AT 6 O'CLOCK (TOKYO TIME).

HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT THAT THERE ARE ONLY TWO
CABINET MINISTERS IN TOKYO.

3. HABIB STRESSED TO DONOWAKI THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL
FOR THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR IN KUALA LUMPUR TO TRY
TO BUY AS MUCH TIME AS POSSIBLE. HE SAID THAT IN
THE HAGUE TERRORIST CASE, THE JAPANESE EMBASSY HAD
BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN GETTING THE HOSTAGES RELEASED
BY PATIENT DISCUSSION WITH TERRORISTS. DONOWAKI SAID
THAT THE GOJ MUST HAVE A CONCRETE SUGGESTION FROM THE
GOM OR THEY CANNOT MAKE A DECISION IN THIS MATTER.
HBABIB AGAIN URGED THAT AMBASSADOR SUMA TALK WITH
TERRORISTS IN EFFORT TO BUILD UP A RELATIONSHIP WITH
THE TERRORISTS IN KUALA LUMPUR AS HAD BEEN DONE IN
THE HAGUE. DONOWAKI SAID HE WOULD INFORM HIS
SUPERIORS AND AMBASSADOR SUMA OF OUR VIEWS.

4. COMMENT: WE DO NOT WANT TO BE PLACED IN THE
POSITION OF MAKING DECISIONS TO SATISFY THE DEMANDS
OF THE TERRORISTS. WE MAINTAIN THAT PRIMARY
RESPONSIBILITY MUST REST WITH THE MALAYSIAN AND
JAPANESE GOVERNMENTS. TOKYO AND KUALA LUMPUR SHOULD
URGENTLY REINFORCE HABIB'S POINT THAT THE JAPANESE
AMBASSADOR TALK WITH TERRORISTS WITH OBJECTIVE OF
BUYING TIME. INGERSOLL

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